

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/P - JCANNON:MFG
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188197 TOSEC 080239

TO HODDING CARTER FROM JACK CANNON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CHINA VISIT - PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

REF: TOSEC 00103

1. CANNON INFORMED TV NETWORKS OF POOLING ARRANGEMENT
NECESSITATED BY PRC LIMIT OF 20 NEWS AGENCY PERSONNEL
PERMITTED TO COVER TRIP. HE STRESSED PROTRACTED
EFFORTS MADE BY DEPARTMENT TO CONVINCE MFA TO AGREE TO
PRESS PARTY OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO PROVIDE FOR
INDIVIDUAL TV CREWS FROM THREE NETWORKS. HE EMPHASIZED
DEPARTMENT'S COMPLETE THOUGH FUTILE SUPPORT FOR TV
COMPANIES SPECIAL NEEDS. SINCE CHINESE REPEATEDLY TURNED
ASIDE OUR REQUEST (AS THEY HAVE SIMILARLY DONE IN OTHER
SECSTATE VISITS) CANNON ASKED NETWORK EXECUTIVES TO PRO-
VIDE DEPARTMENT WITH NAMES OF CAMERAMAN AND SOUNDMAN WHO
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WOULD MAKE UP POOL. ABC AND NBC IN INITIAL CONVERSA-
TIONS THANKED DEPARTMENT FOR MAKING EFFORT AIMED AT
INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE AND EXPRESSING RESIGNATION AT
"UNSATISFACTORY" ARRANGEMENT, SAID THEY WERE FULLY PRE-
PARED TO ACCEPT POOL CREW. HOWEVER, CBS NEWS EXECUTIVE
SID FEDDERS IMMEDIATELY AND FLATLY STATING HIS NETWORK'S
TOTAL ABHORRENCE OF POOL ARRANGEMENTS, SAID HE WOULD

RECOMMEND TO OTHER NETWORKS (CBS IS POOL CHAIRMAN FOR AUGUST) THAT POOL DECISION ON PRC TRIP BE REJECTED BY ALL AND THAT COMPANIES REFUSE TO PRODUCE NAMES OF POOL STAFFERS. (AS YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE, FEDDERS HAS USED THIS UNSUCCESSFUL GAMBIT PREVIOUSLY). AS ALTERNATIVE TO REJECTION OF POOL, HE ARGUED THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD REQUEST PRC TO ADD (1) ONE MORE CAMERAMAN TO PRESS PARTY WHICH WOULD, UNDER "ONE MAN BAND" ARRANGEMENT, ALLOW THE NETWORKS INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE. CANNON REITERATED THAT IT WAS DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO ACCEPT PRC LIMIT OF 20 NEWS AGENCY PERSONNEL AND ADDED THAT, IN ANY CASE, STILL PHOTO SERVICES WHO WERE ALSO BEING POOLED WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTEST SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. FEDDERS, IN SUBSEQUENT CALL 8/9 TOLD CANNON HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NBC AND ABC AND PURPORTING TO SPEAK FOR ALL THREE NETS SAID THAT IT WAS DECISION OF "ALL" NETWORKS TO REJECT POOL ARRANGEMENT AND STATED THAT THEIR REPORTERS WOULD CONTACT YOU IN TEL AVIV TO PRESS TV NEWS INDUSTRY'S CASE FOR RESHAPING PRESS CONTINGENT.

2. SEEKING CLARIFICATION, CANNON CALLED ABC NEWS EXECUTIVE STAN ATOPOWSKY WHO SAID THAT FEDDERS HAD "TOTALLY MISREPRESENTED" POSITION OF ABC NEWS WHICH REMAINED AS PREVIOUSLY STATED TO CANNON. ATOPOWSKY ADDED THAT "YOU SHOULD ALWAYS WATCH YOUR WALLET" WHEN DEALING WITH FEDDERS.
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AS OF THIS HOUR UNABLE REACH NBC, BUT BELIEVE FEDDERS HAS ALSO MISREPRESENTED THAT NETWORKS POSITION.

3. COMMENT: CANNON AND TRATTNER BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE FORWARDED WITH ABOVE INFORMATION IN CASE CBS REPRESENTATIVE (OR OTHERS) APPROACH YOU WITH WHAT SEEMS TO BE UNIFIED POSITION OF ALL THREE NETWORKS IN OPPOSITION TO POOL ARRANGEMENT. UNSURE OF WHAT CBS ULTIMATE POSITION WILL BE, BUT BASED ON TRACK RECORD, BELIEVE IT WILL JOIN POOL. IF CBS REMAINS ADAMANT, PLAN TO ASK NBC AND ABC TO NAME POOL REPRESENTATIVES. CHRISTOPHER

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